

Town of Groton, Connecticut Meeting Agenda

45 Fort Hill Road Groton, CT 06340-4394 Town Clerk (860)441-6640 Town Manager (860)441-6630

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG
- III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2009-0020 Proclamation Recognizing National Mentor Month

Proclamation - TC

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

a. Approval of Minutes

2009-0026 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 6, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2008-0309 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Charlie Ewers - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous Elga O'Dell - \$5.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous Barbara Winters - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Linda Barrett - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Mary-Lou Brockett-Devine - \$30.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

George and Elaine Adams - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Margorie Adams - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Anonymous - \$4.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Robert Ashworth - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary

William Beaman - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cardinal Honda Employees - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Harry and Betty Curry - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Groton Church of Christ - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Groton Post Office - \$22.23 - Social Services Discretionary

Groton Regency - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Paul and Carol Henschel - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

James and Marjorie Hollister - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Rick Hunter - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lawncrest Apartments - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Liberty Bank/Groton Rotary/Groton Lions - \$6,527.44 - Social Services Discretionary

George Marshall - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Mistic River B&PW Inc. - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Russ Musante - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Mystic River Homes Residents - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lana Orphanides - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Robert Panucci - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Janet Parcell - \$300.00 - Social Services Discretionary

John and Dana Parfitt - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Danette Robinson - \$785.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Sharon Sanders - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Erika Vassell - \$5.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Anonymous - \$250.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Patricia Sparkman - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Sally McBee and Bruce Campbell - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

National Alliance for the Mentally III Southeastern Connecticut - \$150.00 - Library Discretionary

Various Donations - \$447.50 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton Matching Funds - \$126.74 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Robert and Edith McHugh - \$50.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Charlene Dexter - \$25.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Jim Loomis - \$5.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Alan Martin - \$5.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Anonymous Donation - \$20.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Jeffrey Callahan - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Marilyn R.Nelson - \$20.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Paul Bates - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Janet Passehl - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Paula Stauffer - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Barbara Heuer - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

John Sutherland - \$150.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

2009-0017 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Genevieve Cerf - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Connecticut Elks Association - \$450.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cutler Middle School - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cutler Middle School Team A - \$165.90 - Social Services Discretionary

Cindie Davis - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Chris Johnson - \$475.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Jesse Lallo - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Natalie Lindberg \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Anonymous - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Brandi Romero - \$566.77 - Social Services Discretionary
Albert and Janice Rudolph - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Sacred Heart School 5th Grade Class - \$12.61 - Social Services Discretionary
Erin Scanlon - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Robert and Renate Schneider - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Barbara Servidio - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Waterford Group - \$700.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Marlene Terry Ziegler - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary
Andrew Blacker - \$200.00 - DARE Program
Dr. John and Marcia McGowan - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Melanie Greenhouse - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

c. Deletions from the rown Council Meletral List			
	2008-0001	Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0002	Republican Town Committee Appointments (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0003	Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0004	Revised Position Descriptions (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0005	Town Council Rules Revisions (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0006	Property Acquisition/Sale (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0007	Labor Negotiations (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0008	Pending Litigation (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0009	Legislative Policy (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0010	Town Participation in CCM Lawsuits and Interventions (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0011	Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0012	Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2008 Standing Referral)	Referral
	2008-0028	Neighborhood Online Watch Website	Referral
	2008-0036	Shortage of Recreation Fields	Referral
	2008-0232	ID Cards for Retired Police Officers	Referral
	2009-0016	ICMA Public Library Innovation Grant	Referral
	2008-0026	Policy Concerning Disposition of Foreclosed Properties	Referral
	2008-0235	Mortimer Wright Preserve Trail Proposal	Referral
	2008-0307	Annual Dates for Shennecossett Golf Course Season Passes	Referral
	2008-0308	Supplemental Agreement for Revised Engineering Costs for the Mystic Streetscape Project	Referral
	2009-0023	Reappointment of Joyce Kaiser to Library Board	Resolution
	2009-0024	Reappointment of Edward Brennan to Water Pollution Control Authority	Resolution
	2009-0025	Reappointment of Tom Manning to Zoning Board of Appeals	Resolution

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

- a. Town Councilors
- b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting
- c. Clerk of the Council
- d. Town Manager
- e. Town Attorney

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Community & Cultural Development Chairman Brown-Tracy
- b. Economic Development Chairman Bond
- c. Education/Health & Social Services Chairman Kolnaski
- d. Environment/Energy Chairman Sheets
- e. Finance Chairman Schmidt
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules Chairman O'Beirne
- g. Public Safety Chairman Streeter
- h. Public Works/Recreation Chairman Monteiro
- i. Committee of the Whole Mayor Watson

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0016 ICMA Public Library Innovation Grant

Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY INNOVATION

WHEREAS, the International City/County Managers Association, ICMA, offers grants for special municipal projects such as advances in library technology, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Town of Groton continuously increase their use of, and reliance on, the Town's web site for the greatest variety of information, and

WHEREAS, a grant could be employed for a professional redesign of the Town's web site and the inclusion of more video content, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves and ratifies an application for an ICMA grant of \$47,500 for library innovation.

Legislative History

1/7/2009 Mayor

Referred

Town Council Finance Commi

1/13/2009

Town Council Finance Committee Recommended for a Resolution

2008-0026

Policy Concerning Disposition of Foreclosed Properties

Referral

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICY ON TOWN ACQUISITION OF FORECLOSED

PROPERTIES

RESOLVED, that the Town Council policy is that notice shall be given to the Council upon the acquisition by the Town of any real estate by foreclosure, and that the Council shall make a determination as to whether such property shall be used or reserved for Town purposes as specified in the Town Charter, or disposed of by sale. If said property is deemed to be reserved for Town purposes, it shall not be disposed of without the approval of the Council and, if required, the RTM. Any proposed disposal shall be referred to the Planning Commission in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24.

Legislative History

1/8/2008 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

1/22/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

Town Manager Oefinger stated he will include the information on the sale of the Scheetz property that was prepared by Nancy Dytko and Sal Pandolfo in the Weekly Status Report. He explained that prior to the new policy, if the Town foreclosed on property, the Town would attempt to sell it at auction to recoup the Town's money.

Councilor O'Beirne suggested that now is a good time to include the policy in a recommended Charter revision.

Discussion followed on the possible conflict between Attorney Duggan's recent opinion and Attorney Brennan's previously issued opinion, and past practice of the Tax Collector with respect to foreclosed properties. Councilor Sheets asked if an opinion is needed regarding "fixing" any sales that have taken place.

Town Manager Oefinger explained the distinction in the new policy is bringing properties to the Council as soon as they are foreclosed to determine if the property should be held by the Town.

12/9/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

Councilor O'Beirne questioned the status of this referral. The Town Manager thought this issue was resolved when a process was proposed by the Town Attorney that would require that the Town Council determine if a foreclosed property is to be used or reserved for Town purposes. Councilor O'Beirne had suggested that the policy be included in the revised Charter, but this was not done. Councilor O'Beirne distributed a proposed policy whereby all property acquired by the Town would be deemed reserved for Town purposes, requiring Town Council and sometimes RTM approval for disposal.

Councilor Monteiro noted that if a property is foreclosed for taxes, disposal of the property is designed to recoup the taxes. She expressed concern that the Town Council and RTM could prevent disposal of a piece of property. Councilor O'Beirne noted that the Charter does not define a mechanism for determining if a piece of property is to be used or reserved for Town purposes.

Councilor Monteiro suggested that the Council review a parcel and determine if it should be kept, and if not, it would be disposed of in the traditional method. The Town Manager noted that Councilor Monteiro's suggestion is more in line with the Town Attorney's recommendation. It was noted that foreclosure for taxes is an infrequent occurrence.

12/9/2008 Town Council Committee of Motion the Whole

to recommend a resolution stating that the Council policy is that real estate acquired by the Town through any means, including but not limited to purchase, gifting, trade or acquisition resulting from foreclosure or other procedures, shall be deemed reserved for Town purposes as specified in the Town Charter; and it shall not be disposed of without the approval of the Council, and if required, the RTM; and any proposed disposal shall be referred to the Planning Commission

12/9/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

The Town Manager reiterated that the Town's standard operating procedure as of a year and a half ago is that the Town Council will review any property to determine whether or not to keep it, in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Town Attorney's letter. If the Council would like a resolution outlining the procedure, the Town Manager will prepare it. Mayor Watson asked Councilor Monteiro to draft a resolution

and send it to the Town Manager.

1/13/2009 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a the Whole Resolution

Councilor Monteiro read a suggested resolution concerning disposition of foreclosed properties for consideration by the Council. Town Manager Oefinger recommended eliminating "including but not limited to purchase, gifting, trade or acquisition resulting" and "other procedures." If any of those things occur, there is a specific purpose already identified unlike foreclosure where no determination has been made. Councilor Sheets noted that the policy is directed toward foreclosure and the other situations are addressed by the Charter. Councilor O'Beirne questioned Councilor Monteiro's concern about the ability of the Council and RTM to block the sale of a property. She clarified that she is concerned that if a property can be sold for taxes, and the purpose is to collect on taxes, it would not accomplish anything to hold up the sale. Councilor Sheets cited an example of not having such a policy and she feels that this policy will notify the Town Council when land is acquired through forfeiture. Discussion followed on identifying how land is acquired in the policy and specific wording.

1/13/2009 Town Council Committee of Motion the Whole

that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Sheets, to amend the motion to eliminate the wording recommended by the Town Manager.

The motion to amend passed by the following vote:

In favor: 8 - Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets, Councilor Streeter and Mayor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne

2008-0235 Mortimer Wright Preserve Trail Proposal

Referral

RESOLUTION ENDORSING TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MORTIMER WRIGHT PRESERVE

WHEREAS, citizens have proposed a project, using volunteers along with some Town of Groton support work such as provision for parking space, to improve and extend walking trails on Town-owned land known as the Mortimer Wright Preserve, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission, on December 9, 2008, made an affirmative report pursuant to CGS Section 8-24, along with four recommendations, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Inland Wetlands Agency, on December 10, 2008, made certain suggestions concerning the trails proposal, and stated that a wetland permit will be required based on the final plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council endorses and authorizes the proposed Mortimer Wright Preserve trails improvement project, based on compliance with the recommendations and/or approval of the Planning Commission and the Inland Wetlands Agency.

Legislative History

the Whole

9/25/2008MayorReferredTown Council Committee of th9/30/2008Town Council Committee of Discussed

The Town Manager and John Silsby were approached by Bernie French seeking permission to construct trails through the Mortimer Wright Preserve property. The property is undeveloped with some trails. Dr. French, who is a mountain biker, wants to improve the trails by cutting back some brush. He has also worked with the State to improve trails at Haley Farm and the O&G property. The Town Manager suggested that Dr. French meet with the Conservation Commission, and they expressed support for Dr. French's proposal. A number of suggestions made by the Commission are good and they may happen over time, but they are not part of Dr. French's proposal. The Conservation Commission is also suggesting acquiring a parcel of property surrounded by the Mortimer Wright Preserve (the Weber property).

Mr. Silsby noted that a trail system on the Mortimer Wright Preserve is included in the Trails Master Plan and Dr. French's proposal will create the potential for more trail connections.

Councilor Brown-Tracy returned to the meeting.

9/30/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

Councilor Monteiro asked if the Weber property is landlocked. The Town Manager explained that there is a path that the property owner has a right to use to gain access, but not to install utilities. The Town Manager believes that the property was purchased for hunting purposes. The trails proposed by Dr. French are some distance away from the Weber property.

The Council asked that Dr. French be invited to a future Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss his proposal. The Town Manager also offered to conduct a site walk for interested Councilors. Councilor Monteiro asked for an overlay showing the existing and proposed trails.

The Mayor made a referral to the Committee of the Whole on the potential acquisition of the Weber property, to be discussed under 2008-006 Property Acquisition/Sale (2008 Standing Referral).

10/14/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

Dr. Bernie French was present and provided a handout for the Council. He referenced a map of the Mortimer Wright Preserve showing existing and proposed trails. The proposed trail basically follows the location recommended in the 2004 Trails Master Plan. Although the Master Plan calls for a 10-12 foot wide multi-use trail, Dr. French proposes a narrower, three foot wide trail.

Councilor O'Beirne expressed concern with irresponsible bikers not following the trails. Dr. French noted that the northern third of the new trail is fairly rugged. There are a number of fallen trees which could be left behind to limit off-trail access. Topography also limits bike traffic. Councilor O'Beirne asked if the property owners on either side of the access have been contacted about this proposal. They have not, but Dr. French agreed that would be a good idea.

Councilor Streeter asked about the reference in Dr. French's letter to removal of "personal property". Dr. French explained that there is an outdoor "museum" or collection of items that appears to be associated with 250 Groton Long Point Road that is located on the Mortimer Wright Preserve property.

Dr. French is also requesting help from the Town to clear a trail approximately 240 feet in length in an area of thick growth.

The Town Manager suggested that if the Town Council decides to support this proposal, there should be a resolution authorizing the work, outlining what help the Town will give, and addressing some of the issues raised by Dr. French.

Dr. French indicated he has approximately 15 volunteers and the work will involve the use of chain saws and string trimmers, with the exception of the area where Dr. French is asking for Town assistance.

Councilor Bond asked about the Town's liability for the volunteers if they are authorized to be out there with power equipment. The Town Manager indicated the Town can request a hold harmless agreement and the Town has insurance. Dr. French noted that he worked to install a new trail at Haley Farm and he was asked to sign a release form for the state.

Councilor Bond suggested that the resolution include the concurrence of the neighbors on either side of the access. The Town Manager indicated that the property owners should be notified of the work, and the Town can explain what is going to happen, but it is Town property. The Town can address the property owners' concerns, but it does not need their approval.

Councilor O'Beirne asked if the Planning Commission needs to be notified of this proposal. The Town Manager will notify the Planning Commission, but he noted that this is not a change of use, only an expansion of the existing trail system. Town Manager Oefinger suggested that the neighbors be approached and a draft resolution prepared for the Council's review. The Town will investigate the personal property on the site and the availability of Town equipment to help Dr. French.

Dr. French offered to tour the property with any interested Councilors.

10/28/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

Many Councilors noted that they had received a phone call from Bobby Jo Cini, an adjacent property owner, expressing concerns with the proposal. The Town Manager distributed a map identifying adjacent property owners. Subsequent to Ms. Cini's telephone call, Councilor Streeter suggested to the Town Manager that the adjacent property owners be contacted to explain the project. The Town Manager reminded the Council that Dr. French offered to arrange a tour of the property.

Councilor Sheets outlined Ms. Cini's concerns as follows: horse manure on the trails and the potential impact on the wells of adjacent neighbors; the prospect of horses and bikers crossing Groton Long Point from Brook Street; and the use of Town equipment to assist a "private use" of the recreational space. Councilor Sheets noted that the parcel is open space and it is open to the public. She feels that horse owners have the same duty as dog owners to clean up after their animals. Councilor Sheets noted Ms. Cini's underlying misconception that there wouldn't be any contact with abutters. She agreed with the Town Manager that the Town does not need approval from the abutting property owners, but the Town should notify them of the proposal and seek their input.

Councilor Monteiro added that Ms. Cini is also concerned that there is ledge on the property. Councilor Monteiro would like to tour the property. The Town Manager agreed that the property is loaded with rock and ledge. All clearing, with the exception of the area at the street, will be done with hand tools. There will be no blasting or rock removal. The trails will just go around.

The Town Manager recommended that neighbors be invited to a session with Dr. French so that the concerns can be understood. The consensus of the Council was to have the meeting during a Committee of the Whole meeting.

11/12/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

Town Manager Mark Oefinger provided a brief history of Dr. Bernie French's proposal to develop a loop trail system through the Mortimer Wright Preserve property. A number of Town Councilors recently toured the property. Prior to approaching the Town Council, Dr. French met with the Conservation Commission, which enthusiastically endorsed his proposal. The purpose of this meeting is to review the proposal with adjacent property owners and address any questions. The Town Manager is recommending that this item be referred to the Planning Commission. Although the project may not meet the threshold for a CGS 8-24 referral, it is safer to make a referral.

Dr. Bernie French addressed the residents regarding his proposal. He emphasized that his plan is for a 3' wide (not 12' wide) dirt trail designed for recreational purposes. The system would follow the recommendations of Groton's 2004 Master Trail Plan and there is adequate existing parking at the trailhead. The trail would be cleared by a volunteer group using hand tools. Dr. French has asked the Town for help clearing a connector to the trail system between 300 and 316 Groton Long Point Road. Dr. French explained that the trail would go around trees and rocks whenever possible and no motorized vehicles are proposed. He reviewed maps of the property showing existing and proposed trails.

Councilor Sheets received a call from Sidney VanZandt who would like the Council to know that there is potentially hunting taking place on the property. Also there is a felled tree from a parcel (Weber) that obstructs an existing path.

Mayor Watson asked citizens wishing to speak to come forward.

Bobby Jo Cini, 316 Groton Long Point Road, expressed concern with use of the trails by horses. She asked if the Inland Wetlands Agency was consulted about the plan. Ms. Cini feels that the narrow trail is not safe. She spoke to John Carey of the State DOT who indicated that any interconnecting trails crossing the state road would require a permit. Ms. Cini asked about the cost to the Town and taxpayers. She reiterated her concerns with horse manure on the trails and the proximity to her well. She also feels that it is not safe to cross Route 215 in the area of Brook Street.

Leo Gibson, 478 Brook Street, expressed concern with the safety of the Groton Long Point Road/Brook Street intersection.

The Council asked staff to obtain an accident report from the Chief of Police for that area of Route 215.

Joan Warren stated that she frequently walks Haley Farm and she is supportive of any effort to maintain open space. She supports a minimally invasive trail. The trail does not necessarily cross the road. Ms. Warren thinks it would be wonderful to have a more clearly defined trail.

Frank Jannarone, 360 Groton Long Point Road, feels that speed on the road is an issue and he thinks the trail is a bad idea. He suggested that there are more wetlands on the property than shown on the map. Mr. Jannarone expressed concern with steep areas prone to erosion.

Clayburn VanZandt stated he is a hiker and biker. He shares the concerns of the property owners with traffic and asked the Town to consider a speed limit reduction. Mr. VanZandt encouraged the Town Council to support the proposal.

Steve Fagin, a Ledyard resident, stated that he is a hiker and runner, and he wholeheartedly endorses expansion of trails.

Councilor Monteiro noted there is an existing southerly access to the property, so that if people are determined to go onto the property, they will cross the road whether the new connector is built or not. As one of the Councilors that toured the property, Councilor Monteiro noted that she only saw two areas of horse droppings. She asked if use of the trail could be limited if it is that much of a concern. Councilor Sheets suggested that horse owners be required to clean up after their animals.

Councilor Streeter expressed support for the idea of extending the trail, but perhaps using the existing entrance since the proposed new connector is in a difficult area.

Councilor Schmidt asked about the existing parking and Dr. French noted that approximately six cars can be accommodated.

Councilor Kolnaski asked if this proposal could be referred to the Inland Wetlands Agency and State DOT. Town Manager Oefinger stated that if the Council is supportive of the concept, the plan can be sent to the Planning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency for review. However, the two groups will need a definitive layout of the trail to allow them to provide useful comments. The trail can be marked in the field to be reviewed with the Environmental Planner. The intent with any trail is to try to avoid wetlands. With respect to DOT and traffic speeds, the Traffic Authority has asked the State Traffic Commission to review the speeds on Groton Long Point Road on three or four occasions. The local Traffic Authority feels the speed should be lowered, but the state has denied all requests. Staff can ask about the need for a permit for the proposed trail system.

Mayor Watson polled Councilors and there was unanimous support of the trail concept. The Council asked that the proposal be referred to the Planning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency.

1/13/2009 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

The Town Manager noted receipt of communications from both the Planning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency that are generally supportive of the proposal with some recommendations. The Town Manager stated that the best way to lay out the trail is to have Town staff work with Dr. French in the field and put it on paper. If the Council supports the project, it would be appropriate to pass a resolution supporting this proposal subject to land use approvals. Councilor Sheets suggested that the resolution also endorse the recommendations of the Planning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency.

Mayor Watson asked that the paint ball course issue be addressed. Councilor Streeter asked about the cost to the Town. The Town Manager noted that Dr. French asked for assistance at the trailhead, but the Town Manager does not believe there will be any out of pocket expense to the Town. He will report back to the Council with an estimate of machinery and staff time.

1/13/2009

the Whole

Town Council Committee of Recommended for a Resolution

2008-0308

Supplemental Agreement for Revised Engineering Costs for the Mystic Streetscape Project

Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT TO THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE TOWN OF GROTON FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTRACT PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND

ESTIMATES FOR THE MYSTIC STREETSCAPE (GROTON) UTILIZING FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has requested that design activities be undertaken in conjunction with the Mystic Streetscape (Groton) improvements and will utilize federal funds from the High Priority Projects Program for design and construction of said Mystic Streetscape (Groton) improvements under the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century of 1998, and

WHEREAS, the State and Municipality executed an Agreement No. 8.08-02 (1) entitled "Agreement Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Groton for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Mystic Streetscape (Groton) utilizing Federal Funds from the High Priority Projects Program", dated August 16, 2001, hereinafter referred to as the Original Agreement, and

WHEREAS, said improvements include, but are not limited to design of streetscape and public access improvements, and additional construction phase engineering services, and

WHEREAS, the First Supplemental Agreement will provide additional High Priority Project Program funds under State Project No. 58-283 and Federal aid Project No. HPP-H018 (1), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager, be, and hereby is, authorized to sign the first supplemental agreement entitled "First Supplemental Agreement to the Original Agreement Dated August 16, 2001 Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Groton for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications, and Estimates for the Mystic Streetscape (Groton) Utilizing Federal Funds from the High Priority Projects Program."

Legislative History

12/15/2008 Mayor

Referred

Town Council Committee of th

1/13/2009

Town Council Committee of Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained that this supplemental agreement adjusts the amount of money to be spent on engineering, but does not increase the total cost of the project or the Town's share. This is an internal adjustment required by the Department of Transportation. Councilor Sheets noted that the delay in the project resulted in an escalation of costs. She asked if the components that were eliminated could be added back in for additional funding and the Mayor noted that this project has been identified with the Governor as "shovel-ready" in case of an economic stimulus package from the federal government.

1/13/2009

Town Council Committee of Recommended for a the Whole

Resolution

2008-0310

Acceptance of Patricks Court and Open Space at **Emerald Estates Subdivision**

Referral

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OPEN SPACE AND PATRICKS COURT IN THE EMERALD SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, following initial approval of a subdivision on March 22, 2005, and the subsequent development of that subdivision, the Groton Planning Commission on December 9, 2008 recommended acceptance by the Town of a parcel of open space and a road named Patricks Court within the Emerald Estates Subdivision, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the open space and the road named Patricks Court in the Emerald Estates Subdivision.

Legislative History

12/22/2008

Referred

Town Council Public Works/ I

1/13/2009

Town Council Public Works/

Recommended for a

Recreation Committee

Mayor

Resolution

2009-0023 Reappointment of Joyce Kaiser to Library Board

Resolution

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JOYCE M. KAISER TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Joyce M. Kaiser, 12 Windrose Drive, Noank, is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for a term expiring 12/31/11.

Legislative History

1/13/2009

Recommended for a

Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution

/Legislation Committee

2009-0024 Reappointment of Edward Brennan to Water Pollution

Town Council

Resolution

Control Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD L. BRENNAN TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Edward L. Brennan, 247 Neptune Drive, is hereby reappointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term expiring 5/24/11.

Legislative History

1/13/2009

Town Council

Recommended for a

Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution

/Legislation Committee

2009-0025 Reappointment of Tom Manning to Zoning Board of

Resolution

Appeals

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TOM MANNING TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RESOLVED, that Tom Manning, 66 Little Gull Lane, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring 12/31/13.

Legislative History

1/13/2009

Town Council

Recommended for a

Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution

/Legislation Committee

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT